

Application No. 10/707,999
Docket No. A4-1719
Amendment dated June 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2006

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-25 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that claims 13, 14, and 16 were allowed, claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 were rejected, claim 5 was deemed to recite allowable subject matter, and claims 3, 7-12, 15, and 17-25 remained withdrawn from consideration due to an election requirement. In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate all limitations of its dependent claim 5 (now canceled without prejudice to Applicants), pursuant to the Examiner's conclusion that claim 5 recites allowable subject matter. As such, independent claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

In the Office Action of March 9, 2005 (Paper No. 030705), the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement, but stated

Upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all of the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

As noted above, Applicants believe that independent claim 1 is now allowable.

Applicants further believe that claim 1 is generic, because independent claims

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13 and 17 "include all of the limitations" of claim 1. Therefore, as provided by 37 CFR 1.141, Applicants believe they are "entitled to consideration to additional species which are written in dependent form," namely, withdrawn claims 3 and 7-12 which depend from claim 1, and "entitled to consideration to additional species which . . . otherwise include all of the limitations of [claim 1]," namely, withdrawn claims 15 and 17-25.

Closing

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that their patent application be given favorable reconsideration. Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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